

today to applaud the Justice Department decision to investigate the death, the murder, of Mr. Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida. A youngster, the child of two loving parents, minding his own business, wearing the attire of youthful people, hoodies, sneakers. I understand that he had his earphones in his ear and may have been bopping along to a little music.

I support Neighborhood Watch. I come from local government. Neighbors should watch out for each other but not a neighborhood vigilante. If the 911 call said to that individual, Mr. Zimmerman, "Don't follow him," then get in your car and sit quiet. The police are on the way.

Every one of us, as parents—I have a son—this is not an issue that should strike us as color. It should be anyone that has a teenager, bopping along with a hoody on and sneakers and earphones in his ear, just going to get candy, to be able to sit in front of the all-star game, and he winds up with a gunshot to the chest that kills him dead in his tracks.

Thank you Justice Department for recognizing that the harsh law in the State of Florida that says that you can stand your ground and defend yourself, this man should have retreated. He should have never been out there after that boy. That boy was not found coming out of a window, going through a door. He was on a sidewalk. And it is an outrage. Thank you to President Obama's Justice Department for recognizing that his civil rights are now in question of having been violated. And the Federal law preempts Florida's law, which is the harshest law in this Nation. Every parent should think at least that if their child is just being a child, just being a teenager, a youngster who liked to babysit and play football, that he still had life ahead of him.

I also want to say that I support moving the "R" status from the bullying bill. I held a major hearing in my district. Bullying is an epidemic. And I have introduced major legislation, H.R. 83, and I am encouraging the Judiciary Committee to pass this legislation dealing with bullying. It is an epidemic. We can reauthorize the block grant to give money for best practices to help parents, to help schools, to help children learn about bullying. I believe in our children. I want this Congress to believe in our children, and this Nation to believe in our children.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. GINGREY of Georgia) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Andrew Walton, Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

On a day when leaders of Irish and American nations meet to celebrate common heritage and mutual dreams, may our spirits be united in the one spirit.

May this day bring the memory of shared anguish and struggle to stir appreciation for times when comfort and peace are our companions.

May this day awaken within us wonder and imagination that inspire us beyond the confines of routine and ritual.

May the contemplations, conversations, and decisions of the day be undergirded by wise thoughts, kind words, and humane actions.

May we find God-given goodness within ourselves and within those whom we encounter that we may defend and nurture the worth and dignity of every human being.

May we find success on our journey.

Go n-eiri an bothar leat, meaning, "May the road rise with us."

May the wind be always at our back.

May the sun shine warm upon our face,

The rains fall soft upon our fields,

And until we meet again,

May God hold us in the hollow of His hand.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5 (d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE), the whole number of the House is 432.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests

for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CAPTAIN THOMAS "BILL" DILLION—HOUSTON FIRE FIGHTER

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the bagpipes played in the background, the black cloth of sacrifice was draped over the badges of Houston first responders yesterday.

Senior Captain Thomas "Bill" Dillion of the Houston Fire Department was rushing into a house fire on March 14 when he apparently died of a heart attack. Captain Dillion was 49 years of age and had spent 23 years with the Houston Fire Department. He had three children.

With somber respect, hundreds of Texas firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, and citizens attended his funeral. Mr. Speaker, 300 firefighters from other towns in Texas volunteered their time to fill in at Houston Fire Department stations so Houston firefighters could attend the funeral.

Firefighters are a family of dedicated, loyal public servants. Captain Dillion and other firefighters spend their lives rescuing people they do not know and protecting property they have never seen from fire. Most of us flee danger; firefighters rush to the smell of smoke and the heat of danger.

Bill's crew at Station 69 spoke yesterday about him, saying he was a devout Christian, had a contagious happy mood, loved to fish and, of course, liked country music.

Captain Dillion and his fellow firefighters are a remarkable breed, a rare breed, the American breed. We thank them, one and all.

And that's just the way it is.

AMERICAN WOMEN'S HEALTH

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the second anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, legislation that makes quality health care more affordable for everyone. March is also Women's History Month, so I would like to talk about how this act affects women's health.

Instead of just imposing government mandates on health care for women, I believe the Affordable Care Act empowers women and their families because the Affordable Care Act bans insurance companies from requiring women to obtain authorization before getting OB/GYN care. The Affordable Care Act keeps insurance companies from denying coverage for conditions such as breast or cervical cancer, pregnancy, having had a C-section, or being the victim of domestic violence; and it ends the practice of gender rating, so women will no longer be charged higher rates for simply being a woman.